

Appl. No.: 09/857,635
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 dated January 4, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 11, 2005

Remarks

The following remarks are responsive to the May 11, 2005 Office Action.

Status of the Claims

Claims 11, 15 and 20 are amended. Claims 34-38 are added. Claims 12-14 are cancelled. Claims 1-10, 16, 19 and 28 were cancelled previously. Claims 21-27 and 29-33 are allowed. Claims 11, 15, 17-18, 20-27 and 29-38 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Action, the Examiner indicated that Claims 21-27 and 29-33 are allowable over the art of record. The Examiner also indicated that Claims 12-15 and 20 were objected-to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, new Claim 34 corresponds to former Claims 11 and 12; new Claim 35 corresponds to former Claims 11 and 13; and new Claim 36 corresponds to former Claims 11 and 14. The dependency of Claims 15 and 20 has also been changed. In addition, new Claim 38 should also be allowable, as it depends from allowable Claim 35.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 11 and 17-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication JP 07-149575. Claim 11 (from which Claims 17-18 depend) has been amended to clarify the invention thus rendering the rejection moot.

In addition, new Claim 38 has been added to include a mixture comprising polyacrylic acid. Support for Claim 38 is found in the Examples (pages 7-9 of the specification). None of the cited references teach or suggest the subject matter as claimed.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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Fees

The Commissioner is authorized to charge (or credit any balance) any fees deemed due (or owing) to Deposit Account No. 50-1177.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that Claims 11, 15, 17-18, 20-27 and 29-38 are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If anything further is needed to advance the allowance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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